

"Americans have learned to see the forest for the trees, but they have yet to see the ocean for the waves. We need a blue revolution - a groundswell of activity to raise environmental and scientific awareness of our treatment and use of our oceans," said Farr. "Since the release of the Pew Oceans Commission and U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's reports I have been working to bring this blue revolution to Capitol Hill. I applaud these Senators for taking a step toward a more proactive oceans agenda and hope that together we can turn the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative's priorities into legislative realities."

Oceans advocates are particularly active in Washington right now, celebrating National Oceans Week and World Oceans Day, and attending the Conference on Ocean Literacy and the opening of the new Congressional Caucus on National Marine Sanctuaries, all last week.

"Unfortunately, despite a spike of interest last year after the devastating hurricane season and focus in recent months on fishing policy, Congress has paid little attention to broader oceans priorities in recent years. Our ocean policy remains fatally fragmented, both institutionally and geographically," continued Farr.

"The Pew Commission, U.S. Commission, Dr. Sylvia Earle's "Defying Oceans End", the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative's reports...how many more reports do we need? How many times will we write and re-write this information before we finally start taking some meaningful and effective action to protect and restore our world ocean? The ocean governs our planet's weather patterns, generates most of the oxygen we breathe, provides nourishment to billions of people and economic income to billions more - the least we can do is listen to our own experts and start treating this critical resource with the respect and thoughtfulness it deserves."

*For more information on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and their new report, please see: <http://www.jointoceancommission.org/press/press/release0613.html> .*